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N.B. Human Rights Commission

Campbellton resident receives human rights award (01/12/11)

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CAMPBELLTON (CNB) -- Campbellton resident Alida Léveillé-Brown is the recipient of the 2001 New Brunswick Human Rights Award. The award was presented on Saturday, Dec. 8., by Lt.-Gov. Marilyn Trenholme Counsell.

A teacher by profession, Léveillé-Brown has worked to broaden access to education for Campbellton residents through extension courses. While a school principal, she championed the rights of disabled students to receive a quality education and actively participate in the community. She also pressed for pay equity and maternity leave for women and for the establishment of day-care centres and transition houses in the region.

Alida Léveillé Brown (right) of Campbellton displays the 2001 New Brunswick Human Rights Award certificate presented to her by Lt.-Gov. Marilyn Trenholme Counsell. (Click here to access a 150 dpi photo.)

"The work of Madame Léveillé-Brown is in the highest tradition of our award recipients," stated Patrick Malcolmson, chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission.

Malcolmson said the recipient is devoted to the recognition of the inherent dignity and of he equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family, which is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. She had worked against discrimination based on ethnic origin, sex, social condition, age and disability, and had also worked for inclusion of all members of society as equally deserving of respect.

In presenting the award, the lieutenant-governor lauded Léveillé-Brown. "All the little things you have done, toutes les petites choses, represent a life of service -- a life which has made the lives of children, women and men better and happier," Trenholme Counsell said. "You have broken barriers, especially for women, and you have built foundations for families and communities."

Léveillé-Brown described her motivation to the nearly 100 guests who attended the award ceremony in the gymnasium of the New Brunswick Community College in Campbellton. "The best reward for me was having accomplished something and seeing positive results," she said.

Also during the ceremony, Jean Dubé (MLA-Campbellton) congratulated Léveillé-Brown on behalf of the province and the Premier. Campbellton Mayor Mark Ramsay presented her with a certificate of appreciation for her work as a city councillor and acting mayor.

Madeleine Deschênes Cyr, president of Les Dames d'Acadie, explained that Léveillé-Brown had been one of the founding members of the Campbellton chapter of Les Dames d'Acadie. "She is one of those understanding human beings who generously give their time and knowledge to the people around them without discrimination," she said.

In her acceptance speech, Léveillé Brown thanked the many people who had worked with her to achieve her goals.

"Without others, it's pretty hard to accomplish something," she said. "If there's no co-operation, forget it. You don't get the expected results. So, you know, I feel fortunate having had people to co-operate, to collaborate and to work along with me."

The ceremony closed with a program of songs by about 20 members of the Campbellton-based Ars Musica vocal ensemble. A reception followed.

In addition to her work in the education field, Léveillé-Brown has participated in the Northern New Brunswick Regional Development Council, the Campbellton City Council, the Maison Notre-Dame Transition House, the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the Campbellton Dames d'Acadie. She was a Campbellton city councillor for three terms, and was acting mayor during part of that time. She holds several positions in community organisations.

In 1999, she was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Campbellton Rotary Club for her outstanding commitment to humanitarian causes and volunteer activities. The Université de Moncton bestowed her with a Medal of Honour for her tireless work in continuing education. She received the Centennial Award from the City of Campbellton in 1989 for outstanding contribution to improving the lives of local people and the community.

The Human Rights Award is given annually by the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission to an individual or group that has shown outstanding effort, achievement and leadership on a volunteer basis in the promotion of human rights and equality.

The award was established by the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission in 1988 to mark the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is presented each year near Dec. 10, which is Human Rights Day. Last year's recipient was the Hampton Elementary School in Hampton, N.B.

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